

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

New York, New York

Masaharu ONO et al

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Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

For: MUSICAL TONE SIGNAL GENERATION APPARATUS ACCOMMODATED FOR
MULTIPLE USERS PLAYING MUSIC IN ENSEMBLE

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 6 and 7 as follows.

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 6, line 1, delete "or 5".

Claim 7, line 1, change "any one of claims 1" to --claim 1--;
line 2, delete "to 6".

Please add the following new claims 15-23.

--15. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the storage is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts, so that the automatic performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals of automatic performance using a prescribed tone color assigned to the prescribed part whose performance data is stored in the storage, while the manual performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals using a tone color which is selected from

among tone colors designated by the tone color data other than the prescribed tone color and is assigned to the performance operator.

16. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising:

a loader for loading the performance data into the storage from an external; and
an assignment activator for automatically activating the tone color assignor to proceed to assignment of the tone colors to the plurality of performance operators.

17. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

18. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

19. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 15 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

20. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

21. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

22. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

23. A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to change the multiple dependent claims to single dependent claims in order to reduce the government filing fee.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label EL583792913US) in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 20, 2000:

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Respectfully submitted,

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